

Niger desert locust update for the third dekad of September, 2005

Summary:

The desert locust situation in Niger remained relatively calm during the third dekad of September. Immature adults and hoppers were sprayed on some 30 ha in Agaliouk. No locusts were detected in the border areas with northern Nigeria where earlier AFP reported locust invasions on millet and maize crops, *Hieroglyphus daganensis* and *Kraussaria anguilifera* were observed.

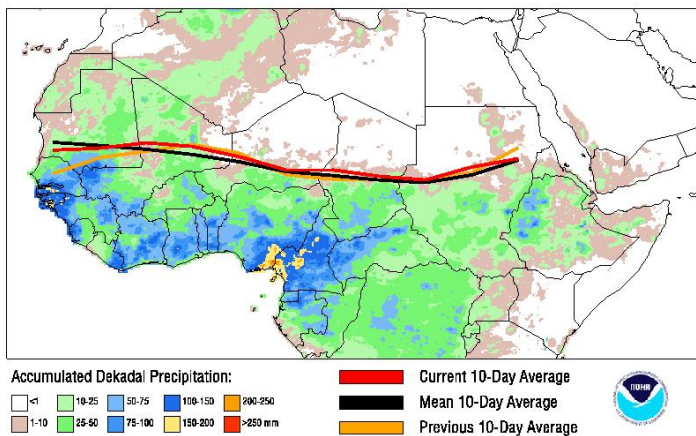
Meteorological and Ecological Conditions:

The ITCZ slightly moved north over most of western Sahel during this period. As a result moderate to light rains were recorded in the agricultural and agro-pastoral zones of Niger and elsewhere in the region. Annual vegetation is in its final cycle with a few patches of *Schouwia* developing in parts of Agaliouk and western and central Air, but this will not harbor significant locust populations over the coming weeks.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

September 2005 Dekad 3



Locust situation:

The locust situation remained calm in most parts of the country during the third dekad.

Only immature adults at densities of 1000-2500 insects/ha and hoppers of various stages at 3 insect/m² were detected in Agaliouk. No locusts were seen during surveys carried out in Tesker, Zinder. A survey team was sent to Gaya, southern Niger bordering the State of Kabbi, northern Nigeria to verify an earlier report by AFP of severe locust invasions on millet and maize crops. The team did not see desert locust invasion but reported *Hieroglyphus daganensis* and *Kraussaria anguilifera*, two of the most common grasshopper species in the area. There was no evidence of the grasshopper invasion originating in southern Niger.

Interventions:

Survey and control teams in Agreboun, North Air sprayed immature adult locusts, at 1,000 to 2,500 insects/ha and various stages of hoppers, at 3 insects/m² on 30 ha. This brings the total area treated since the current spray operations began in June to 1,501 ha. **Note: more than 103,688 ha were sprayed during the same period last year; that is nearly 70 x (seventy times) the area sprayed so far this year! End note.** In the Agaliouk area which is being targeted for a trial with Green Muscle, a biopesticide, small scale breeding continued in the foot hills of the dunes where first to fifth instar hoppers were present but the insect density did not increase. In the Tezerzait site, up to 5,000 insects/ha were detected in the previous dekad but the number declined to less than 50-100 individuals/ha in the third dekad.

Forecast:

Localized, small-scale breeding may be observed over the coming weeks in areas where patches of green vegetation persist. Survey and monitoring operations will continue through October. An aerial survey team was dispatched during the month to guide the ground survey teams. Three additional ground survey teams, two to Tamesna and one to Air and one control team are expected to be deployed at the beginning of October.

Pesticide inventory:

Niger has more than 187,660 liters of pesticides most of which are left-over from the 2003-05 campaign. This is more than enough to handle any locust invasion the country may experience in the coming seasons as it is increasingly moving towards early Interventions as witnessed at the beginning of the current operations.

External Assistance:

Niger's Department of Crop protection received a double cabin Toyota pick up truck equipped with Ulvamast sprayer through a USAID grant agreement to the CILSS-AGRHYMET. This will certainly contribute to DPV's capacity for interventions.

News Update

AELGA's webpage, www.aelga.net is now available to the public. You may visit us to learn more about our activities and programs. For more information, please, contact Yene T. Belayneh, at ybelayneh@ofda.net

U:\..\ybelayneh/sitrep2005/NigerLocustUpdate.
Oct. 06.05